



In November 2001, WICHE launched *Changing Direction: Integrating Higher Education Financial Aid and Financing Policy*, a project funded by Lumina Foundation for Education. Our primary partners in this initiative are State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), the Center for Policy Analysis at the American Council on Education (ACE), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

The purpose of *Changing Direction* is to examine how to structure financial aid and financing policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for all students. The project addresses current practices and policies, with emphasis on exploring innovative, creative, perhaps untested approaches to national- and state-level challenges. A key goal is to achieve an integrated state policymaking framework and process so that policies related to tuition, financial aid, and appropriations are coordinated, occur in an environment of collaboration, and support state goals for higher education.

In addition to national and multi-state policy forums, state policy roundtables, commissioned papers, and other activities, *Changing Direction* provides direct technical assistance to a limited number of states over a two-year period. Through a competitive process, 14 states have been selected to receive technical assistance to explore and implement ways of improving the policymaking framework at the state level. Brief descriptions and contact information for these states follow.

➤ **ARIZONA** - The Arizona Board of Regents received assistance in 2003 and 2004 to conduct a series of meetings and associated activities to increase state-funded need-based financial aid, strengthen the role of higher education in workforce development through new or modified state appropriations mechanisms, and work with the state universities on financing and financial aid strategies to increase access and graduation rates. Contact: Mark Denke, Assistant Executive Director, Academic and Student Affairs, Arizona Board of Regents, 2020 North Central Avenue, Suite 230, Phoenix, AZ 85004; phone 602.229.2500; mark.denke@asu.edu.

➤ **CALIFORNIA** - During 2005, the Assembly Committee on Higher Education of the California State Legislature will conduct a series of meetings and associated activities to draft a strategic plan that addresses student fees, financial aid, and financing policy. Contact: Dr. Bruce Hamlett, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Higher Education, California State Legislature, 1020 North Street, Room 173, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone 916.319.3454; bruce.hamlett@asm.ca.gov.

➤ **CONNECTICUT** - The Connecticut Department of Higher Education received assistance in 2003 and 2004 to examine the state's tuition and fee policy to ensure consistency in the definition and treatment of tuition and fees for policy purposes and explore the development of a more reliable and comprehensive student financial aid data base to better assess the adequacy of student financial aid levels. Contact: Dr. Mary Johnson, Associate Commissioner, Finance & Administration, Connecticut Department of Higher Education, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105; phone 860.947.1848; mjjohnson@ctdhe.org.

➤ **FLORIDA** - The Florida Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement (CEPRI) received assistance in 2003 and 2004 to update and expand its Web-based tool and cohort analysis with a focus on financial aid and its impact on student progression. Contact: Dr. Patrick Dallet, Deputy Executive Director, Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement, The Florida Legislature, Room 574, 111 West Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400; phone 850.488.7703; dallet.pat@leg.state.fl.us.

➤ **HAWAII** - In 2004 and 2005, the University of Hawaii System is working with key policymakers to develop a working knowledge of the issues surrounding state appropriations, tuition setting, and financial aid as they relate to access and retention; create a set of shared principles as guidelines for long-term planning and budgeting for the university system; develop a plan for increases in need-based financial aid; and generate support in the legislature for a state-supported financial aid program benefiting residents attending public postsecondary institutions. Contact: Dr. Linda Johnsrud, Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawaii, Bachman Hall, Room 110A, 2444 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822; phone 808.956.7075; johnsrud@hawaii.edu.

➤ **IDAHO** - In 2004 and 2005, the Idaho State Board of Education is building consensus among key policy and educational leaders, businesses, philanthropies, and students and their families on the factors involved in financial support for a college education; completing a review and inventory of finance policies; and improving collaboration in aligning tuition and financial aid policies in state appropriations decisions. Contact: Nancy Szofran, Chief Technology Officer, Idaho State Board of Education, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720; phone 208.334.2270; nszofran@osbe.state.id.us.

↻ **KENTUCKY** - The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education is conducting a series of meetings and associated activities to clarify the connections that exist in current policy and explore policy strategies to improve affordability of higher education for its citizens in 2005. Key activities include an affordability study and discussions of that research with policymakers and other key stakeholders to examine appropriate links between tuition policy, the state's funding model, and the strategic plan. Contact: Dr. Sandy Woodley, Vice President, Finance, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320, Frankfort, KY 40601; phone 502.573.1555; sandra.woodley@ky.gov.

↻ **LOUISIANA** - In 2004 and 2005, the Louisiana Board of Regents is working with the legislature to broaden the scope of the requirements of recent legislation to include financial aid and postsecondary education financial issues and to develop a framework for analyzing various policy options and relationships related to financial issues. Contact: Donnie Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Louisiana Board of Regents, PO Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; phone 225.342.4253; dvandal@regents.state.la.us.

↻ **MISSOURI** - The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education received assistance in 2003 to implement improvements for the delivery and distribution of state grants and scholarships and develop strategies to implement the recommendations of The Commission on the Future of Higher Education related to participation and financial aid. Contact: John Wittstruck, Senior Research Associate, Educational Policy, Planning and Improvement Center, Missouri Department of Higher Education, 3515 Amazonas, Jefferson City, MO 65109; phone 573.751.2361; john.wittstruck@dhe.mo.gov.

↻ **NEW MEXICO** - In 2005, the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education will conduct a series of meetings and associated activities to follow up on a new initiative on improving student success by shaping regulations and details to implement the student success program and developing legislation for the 2006 legislative session to further enhance the initiative. Contact: Anne Uhring, Director of Outreach and P-12 Liaison, New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, 5301 Central Avenue, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108; phone 505.841.6613; auhring@che.state.nm.us.

↻ **OKLAHOMA** - In 2004 and 2005, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is conducting a series of meetings and associated activities to pursue adequate funding for the higher education system, the institutions, and the students, while identifying systemwide efficiencies and strategic priorities to maximize higher education's resources. Contact: Dr. Dolores Mize, Associate Vice Chancellor, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, 655 Research Parkway, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73104; phone 405.524.9196; dmize@osrhe.edu.

↻ **OREGON** - The Oregon University System received assistance in 2003 and 2004 to focus on affordability of postsecondary education for Oregon students, particularly low-income and underrepresented students. The result of this project was intended to be an understanding of the information needed to monitor affordability policies and their impacts on Oregon public postsecondary enrollment, institutional commitment to a realistic level of data or database development, and a plan to implement a program of ongoing accountability for affordability at the State, Board, and institution levels. Contact: Dr. David McDonald, Director, Enrollment and Student Services, Oregon University System, PO Box 3175, Eugene, OR 97403-0175; phone 541-346-5729; David.McDonald@ous.edu.

↻ **TENNESSEE** - In 2004 and 2005, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is working to raise the awareness of policymakers about the importance of linking appropriations and fee determinations with student aid levels; develop a new statewide master plan; and restructure its long-standing funding formula so that it will be more responsive to statewide policies and goals. Contact: Dr. Brian Noland, Associate Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Parkway Towers, Suite 1900, Nashville, TN 37243; phone 615.741.3862; Brian.Noland@state.tn.us.

↻ **WASHINGTON** - In 2005, the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board will conduct a series of meetings and associated activities to inform implementation of initiatives in the areas of allocating student enrollments, keeping college tuition affordable and predictable, and promoting opportunity through financial aid. The state will also explore methods of distributing appropriations by funding for student success, focusing on outcomes rather than inputs alone. Contact: Joann Wiszmann, Deputy Director, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, 917 Lakeridge Way, PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430; phone 360.753.7831; joannw@hecb.wa.gov.

WICHE Contacts

Dr. Cheryl D. Blanco, Project Director and Director of Policy Analysis & Research; phone 303.541.0221; cblanco@wiche.edu.

Demarée Michelau, Project Coordinator; phone 303.541.0223; dmichelau@wiche.edu

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

PO Box 9752
Boulder, CO 80301
fax 303.541.0291

Also see WICHE's Web pages at wiche.edu/Policy/Changing_direction/index.htm.